

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 EC BRU 03179 101236Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 101211Z APR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8634

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 522

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T EC BRUSSELS 3179

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO EEC

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

REF: STATE 80930

1. PORTUGAL SEEMS ALMOST A TEXTBOOK CASE FOR POLITICAL COOPERATION ACTION BY THE EC NINE. THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY GENERAL STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, SOME INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, SOME HIGH-LEVEL VISIT, AND AN ANNOUNCED WILLINGNESS TO REACT FAVORABLY TO PORTUGUESE REQUESTS FOR HELP. THE NINE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PULL THEMSELVES TOGETHER ON A MAJOR POLITICAL INITIATIVE IN A SITUATION WHICH IS GEOGRAPHICALLY IN THE AREA, WHICH AFFECTS EUROPE DIRECTLY, AND WHICH CAN BE INFLUENCED BY MEANS AVAILABLE TO THE EC.

2. IN OUR VIEW THE EC NINE SHOULD BE CRANKING UP A JOINT EC STATEMENT DESIGNED TO HAVE MAXIMUM POLITICAL IMPACT IN PORTUGAL. TO HAVE THIS IMPACT, THE STATEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A) AN OFFER TO BRING PORTUGAL INTO A CLOSER RELATION WITH THE EC, PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES OF THE GREEK OR TURKISH MODELS.

B. AN OFFER OF IMMEDIATE TRADE AND FINANCIAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 EC BRU 03179 101236Z

ASSISTANCE.

C. AN OFFER TO GIVE THE EX-PORTUGUESE AFRICAN  
TERRITORIES THE BENEFITS OF THE LOME CONVENTION  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.  
THERE NEED NOT BE ANY EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THE  
PRESENT DRIFT IN PORTUGAL BUT THE OFFERS WOULD, OF COURSE,  
BE MADE ON THE ASSUMPTION OF AN OPEN, DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION.

3. AN EC INITIATIVE ALONG EH LINES OUTLINED ABOVE CAN  
ONLY BE LAUNCHED IN THE POLITICAL COOPERATION CONTEXT  
ALTHOUGH EUSUBSTANTIVE OFFERS ARE COMMUNITY MATTERS. THE  
COMMISSION IS IN NO POSITION TO MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL TO  
EC MINISTERS. ONE OR MORE MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING AT  
LEAST GERMANY, BRITAIN OR FRANCE, WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE  
LEAD. THERE ARE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH ACTION,  
BEGINNING WITH THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WEEKEND OF REFLECTION  
AT DUBLIN APRIL 12-13 OR THEIR MORE FORMAL MEETINGS IN  
LUXEMBOURG APRIL 14-15. GREENWALD

SECRET

NNN

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